

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:BWBROWN:MW

APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY

S/S:O MTANNER

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NEA: MR. ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 097347

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPRO, IN, UR, US

SUBJECT: INDIAN CRITICISM OF U.S.

REF: STATE 94316 (NOTAL)

FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

1. WE CONTINUE TO BE SERIOUSLY ANNOYED AT THE TONE OF PUBLIC CRITICISM OF U.S. BY SENIOR INDIANS, OF WHICH APRIL 22 STATEMENT BY CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT BAROOAH (NEW DELHI 5557) IS LATEST EXAMPLE. WE THINK LINE YOU TOOK WITH "NEW YORK TIMES" WAS ON TARGET AS WAY OF MAKING CLEAR THAT THIS TREND CANNOT CONTINUE WITHOUT CONSIDERABLY DAMAGING EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONS.

2. AS FURTHER FOLLOW-UP TO YOUR EARLIER TALKS WITH GOI LEADERS, WE WANT YOU TO STRESS TO CHAVAN OR IN HIS ABSENCE APPROPRIATELY SENIOR GOI REP, IN ADDITION POINTS MADE IN OUR 94316, FOLLOWING: (A) RE U.S. RESTRAINT AND LACK OF INDIAN RECIPROCITY, REMIND GOI THAT, UNLIKE MOST OF OUR ALLIES AND IN FACE SHARP CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE, USG DID
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NOT PUBLICLY CRITICIZE INDIA OVER ITS NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

LAST MAY. INDEED, SECRETARY "WELCOMED" GOI POLICY STATEMENT THAT INDIA INTENDED NOT DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHEN HE VISITED DELHI; (B) IN RESPONSE TO

INDIAN CHARGES SUCH AS BAROAH'S THAT U.S. ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN CREATING TENSION IN SUBCONTINENT, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT INTEMPERATE INDIAN STATEMENTS ON THIS SCORE CAN BECOME SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. IN REALITY, THE GOP HAS NOT YET REQUESTED ANY NEW ARMS FROM US AND WE INTEND TO REVIEW EACH REQUEST CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF OUR ANNOUNCED POLICY GUIDELINES. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE AWARE THAT GOI AND USSR ARE IN PROCESS OF CONCLUDING MAJOR RPT MAJOR NEW ARMS DEAL (STRICTLY FYI, NOFORN: ACCORDING TO OUR INTELLIGENCE, ON ORDER OF U.S. 200-500 MILLION DOLLARS END FYI). IT IS HYPOCRISY FOR GOI TO CRY WOLF UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG WANT GOI CLEARLY TO UNDERSTAND THAT RELATIONS CANNOT BE ONE-WAY STREET. CONTINUED LACK OF RESTRAINT ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS WILL INEVITABLY TRIGGER NEW DOWNWARD SPIRAL IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID THIS, BUT DECISION IS UP TO INDIANS.

4. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT RPT NOT SAYING WE EXPECT INDIA TO AGREE WITH US ON ALL ISSUES, ANYMORE THAN WE WILL AGREE ON MANY ISSUES WITH INDIA. WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THAT PUBLIC AIRING OF DISAGREEMENTS AND CRITICISMS IN SO OFFENSIVE A MANNER IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE KIND OF NEW MATURE RELATIONSHIP WE THOUGHT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED WE WOULD PURSUE. KISSINGER

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